

Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

Claims 1-8 (canceled).

9 (new): Isolated, synthesized, or recombinant cytokine of (a) amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO: 6 or (b) the amino acid sequence modified by amidization, acetylation, phosphorylation, and/or glycosylation exhibiting cytokine biological activity.

10 (new): A polynucleotide coding for the cytokine of claim 9.

11 (new): cDNA fragment SEQ ID NO: 7.

12 (new): A process for the preparation of the cytokine of claim 9 comprising the steps of

- extraction of hemofiltrate and cation-exchange extraction followed by elution of the absorbed substances,
- ammonium sulfate precipitation of the peptides and proteins present in the eluate, and
- taking up the precipitate in aqueous solution and once more precipitation with a lower alcohol and cation-exchange chromatography, and reverse-phase chromatography.

13 (new): A composition comprising the cytokine of claim 9 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

14 (new): A diagnostic agent comprising a nucleic acid or mRNA coding for the cytokine of claim 9.

15 (new): The diagnostic agent of claim 14, wherein the nucleic acid or mRNA are detectably labeled.

16 (new): The recombinant cytokine of claim 9.

17 (new): The recombinant cytokine SEQ ID NO: 6 of claim 9.

18 (new): An N-terminally truncated fragment of an isolated, synthesized, or recombinant cytokine of (a) amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO: 6 or (b) the amino acid sequence modified by amidization, acetylation, phosphorylation, or glycosylation and exhibiting cytokine biological activity, excluding a fragment of residues 6-74 of SEQ ID NO: 6.

19 (new): The N-terminally truncated fragment according to claim 17, the fragment being amino acids 8-74 or 9-74 of SEQ ID NO: 6.